

PIONEER MEDICINE p 90

HERBS USED IN EARLY-DAY TREATMENTS *in Beaver Utah*

In Beaver's dramatic history, like other early towns, there were no more heroic figures than our pioneer doctors, midwives and nurses. Hundreds of miles from professional aid, they relied on home-made remedies and the knowledge they brought with them from the Old World. In nearly every home lot could be found the herb garden. A few of the most commonly known herbs were catnip, elderberry, clover, burdock, arrowroot, dandelion, cayenne pepper, etc. Other remedies were castor oil, coal oil, goose oil, and mutton tallow and hog lard. There were mustard plasters, flaxseed poultices, hot and cold packs, etc. The pioneers learned the value of these herbs and how to administer them. With these simple remedies, coupled with their great faith in the healing power of God, they sought to combat the diseases that confronted them.

Brigham Young once said, "It is God's mind and will that every father and mother should know just what to do for their children when they are sick. Treat the child with prudence and care, with faith and patience, and be careful in not overcharging it with medicine. If you take too much medicine into the system, it is worse than too much food. It is the privilege of the mother to have faith and to administer to her child; this she can do herself."

From the beginning of time, history tells us that women have presided in the chambers of birth, so the art of midwifery is as old as the world. It has only been during the last century that the study and practice of surgical obstetrics has been taken over by men. So, in the making of our state, the study and practice of midwifery was common. Women, some of them trained in the Old World, others being educated in the art here in Utah,

devoted their lives to this profession. Necessarily, those women were patient, kind, tender and skilled to be able to answer the many calls and to have endeared themselves in the hearts of the pioneer women. Every hamlet had these "mother" doctors.

From the settlement of Beaver in 1856 until 1858 no doctors had come to Beaver, so the responsibility of caring for the sick rested entirely on the midwife.

HONOR ROLL OF MIDWIVES

Mrs. Fanny Knowles, Mrs. Hannah Kershaw, Mrs. Dinah Francis Williams, Mrs. Sarah Gale, Mrs. Martha Jane Patterson, Mrs. Georgina Ipson, Mrs. Mary Ann Tanner, Mrs. Louise Booth, Mrs. Pollock, Mrs. Catherine Sly, Mrs. Ruth Reese, Mrs. Caleb Baldwin, Mrs. Mary Ann Skinner, Mrs. Lottie Carlow, Mrs. Margaret Tattersall, Mrs. Dorothy Williams, Mrs. Mary F. Goodwin, Mrs. Geneva Idol, Mrs. Esta Cox and Mrs. Ruby Potter.

FIRST DOCTORS ARRIVE IN 1858

When the immigrants came from San Bernardino, California, in 1858, Dr. John Ward Christian and Dr. George Fennemore and families were in that group. Upon arriving in Beaver they took up land and built homes and lived here the remainder of their lives. Both had been trained in medicine and now was the time to put it to use.

— In the Fennemore home, one room was made into a drug store and here medicine prescribed by them was made to fill prescriptions.

They were followed in 1872 by Dr. Wayne Smith, who came with the army to Fort Cameron as an army doctor, and when the army disbanded, he stayed on to practice.

These three doctors were prepared to prescribe medicine, but not prepared to act in confinement cases and again the midwife had to carry on. In the early '90s Dr. Steel, Dr. Huffman, Dr. Coffman, and Dr. Harland W.